

OPINION 1224

SIMIA SYNDACTYLA RAFFLES, 1821 (MAMMALIA,
HYLOBATIDAE): GIVEN PRECEDENCE OVER
SIMIA GIBBON C. MILLER, 1779

RULING.— (1) Under the plenary powers it is hereby ruled that the specific name *syndactyla* Raffles, 1821, as published in the binomen *Simia syndactyla*, is to be given precedence over the specific name *gibbon* C. Miller, 1779, as published in the binomen *Simia gibbon*, whenever the two names are considered synonyms.

(2) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology with the endorsements and Name Numbers specified:

- (a) *syndactyla* Raffles, 1821, as published in the binomen *Simia syndactyla*, with an endorsement that it is to be given precedence over the specific name *gibbon* C. Miller, 1779, as published in the binomen *Simia gibbon*, whenever the two names are considered synonyms (Name Number 2817);
- (b) *gibbon* C. Miller, 1779, as published in the binomen *Simia gibbon*, with an endorsement that it is not to be given priority over the specific name *syndactyla* Raffles, 1821, as published in the binomen *Simia syndactyla*, whenever the two names are considered synonyms (Name Number 2818).

HISTORY OF THE CASE Z.N.(S.) 2195

An application for the conservation of *Simia syndactyla* Raffles, 1821, was first received from Dr C. Groves (*Australian National University, Canberra*) on 24 August 1976. It was sent to the printer on 19 April 1977 and published on 31 August 1977 in *Bull. zool. Nom.* vol. 34, pp. 104–105. Public notice of the possible use of the plenary powers in the case was given in the same part of the *Bulletin* as well as to eight general and two mammalogical periodicals.

Dr Jack Fooden (*Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago*) thought the application was unnecessary but Dr Groves still wished the case to be dealt with by the Commission (*Bull. zool. Nom.* vol. 35, pp. 75, 76). No other comment was received.

DECISION OF THE COMMISSION

On 6 October 1981 the members of the Commission were invited to vote under the Three-Month Rule on Voting Paper (1981) 22 either for or against the proposals set out in *Bull. zool. Nom.* vol. 34, pp. 104–105. At the close of the voting period on 6 January 1982 the state of the voting was as follows:

Affirmative Votes — eighteen (18) received in the following order: Melville, Holthuis, Mroczkowski, Sabrosky, Willink, Trjapitzin, Corliss, Vokes, Tortonese, Hahn, Brinck, Lehtinen, Habe, Binder, Nye, Welch, Bayer, Cogger

Negative Vote — Heppell

Abstentions — two (2): Alvarado, Dupuis.

Late affirmative votes were received from Halvorsen, Ride and Starobogatov. No votes were returned by Bernardi and Kraus.

The following comments were returned by members with their voting papers:

Vokes: 'While I am inclined to agree with Dr Fooden, I strongly believe that the specific name *syndactyla* should be protected.'

Hahn: 'I agree to the proposal of Dr Groves — in spite of Dr Fooden's comment — that the name *syndactylus* should be conserved by action of the Commission.'

Heppell: 'Whatever interpretation may be placed on the name *Simia gibbon* it is not required. If it was, or is deemed to have been, validly proposed, it is a good candidate for suppression and I do not know why the applicant was not advised to take that course. We certainly do not want *Simia gibbon* admitted to the Official List only to complicate the priority of *Simia syndactyla*. I am, however, somewhat worried about what action the Commission will take in the event of an "against" vote. If the applicant's request to conserve the name *Simia syndactyla* is rejected as unnecessary this should not result in *Simia gibbon* being conserved instead.'

Cogger: 'Although I would have preferred to see *Simia gibbon* suppressed (which, it appears from the application and subsequent correspondence, could be justified on several grounds), the proposal achieves its purpose without pre-empting further action.'

Dupuis: 'Etant donné (1) la réelle difficulté de décider la signification exacte du nom *Simia gibbon* dans Miller, 1779, (2) l'intérêt d'éviter tout emploi de ce nom, et (3) l'éventualité que "*Simia gibbon*" figure dans certaines adaptations étrangères de Buffon publiées entre 1766 et 1779, je ne peux voter verbatim pour aucune des propositions. Je propose de limiter la décision à ce qui suit: les noms "*Simia gibbon* of Buffon" tel que cité par Miller, 1779, et *Simia gibbon* Miller, 1779 sont mis à l'Index de même que tout emploi antérieur — s'il s'en trouve — d'un nom équivalent. J'estime dès lors inutile de parler de *Simia syndactyla*.'

ORIGINAL REFERENCES

The following are the original references to the names placed on an Official List by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

gibbon, *Simia*, C. Miller, 1779, *Phil. Trans. roy. Soc. London*
vol. 68, pp. 161–179
syndactyla, *Simia*, Raffles, 1821, *Trans. linn. Soc. London*, vol. 13,
p. 241.

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the votes cast on V.P.(81)22 were cast as set out above, that the proposal contained in that voting paper has been duly adopted under the plenary powers, and that the decision so taken, being the decision of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, is truly recorded in the present Opinion No. 1224.

R.V. MELVILLE

Secretary

International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature
London

11 March 1982